CYCLE OF LIFE

843 Birth.- Woman knew she was pregnant when menstrual periods stopped; during her pregnancy she "worked hard, climbed mts.; if she stayed in the house she'd get fat and the baby wouldn't [262] move" (FP). During last month of pregnancy woman ate no meat, very little salt; if she ate meat then, her husband would fail to see deer when hunting (SM). Some husbands did not kill any animal or eat meat when wife pregnant; others did so. One man "killed a fox by smashing its head, while his wife was pregnant; the baby was [845] born without any eyes or nose. Another time that same man killed a king snake when his wife was carrying a baby; the baby was born with a king-snake mark across its chest" (FP). Husband could have intercourse with wife during period of pregnancy. Sudden fright during pregnancy caused miscarriages; FP, LT said some babies born at 8th month, but expressed surprise when 7-months babies mentioned.

844 Older woman, usually a relative, attended woman in labor; husband often assisted, sometimes attended wife if no woman relative available. Husband or attendant dug shallow trench about 3 ft. long, either inside or outside living house, depending on weather; fire built in bottom of trench, slabs of stone laid on top of fire, then layers of earth, tule mats on top of stones. Woman in labor lay on top of this trench (to ?ist); during childbirth knelt, grasping [171] vertical stick; attendant pushed baby down onto mat on ground as among Surprise Valley Paiute (Kelly, 158). Woman stuffed her hair in her mouth to prevent vomiting as baby emerged. To prevent breech presentation, if this expected, woman held suspended head downward; baby righted itself inside womb and would be born head first (FP). In [789] protracted labor person possessing amulet containing supernatural power might be called on to rub amulet over parturient's body (see Autobiography of FP).

Mother of baby pulled out afterbirth, cut cord and tied it about 3 in. from navel, with native twine; cord usually dropped off after 3 days; was saved by mother and kept wrapped in buckskin. Newborn baby washed in plain warm water by attendant and wrapped in soft deerskin, wildcatskin blanket. Maternal grandmother of infant buried afterbirth outside house.

846 After birth mother and infant lay on mat over ● [853] hot trench for 6 days. First 2 days baby fed thin gruel made of water, acorn or piñon meal, from mother's fingers; mother milked out colostrum for ca. 2 days, baby nursed on third day. If mother had no milk she rubbed her breasts with [262] soaproot brush dipped in warm water to induce flow. For one month she drank only warm water, "else her blood would get thick and she'd die" (LT); ate no meat, salt or grease as these foods would get into her milk and make baby sick (FP); if she ate meat husband would not be able to see deer (SM).

[p. 45(a)]

846 deer (SM). While on trench mother used scratching stick (o·wati·š), made from any piece of twig, so hair would not fall out; did not touch face with hands, else she would have pimples. Short time after birth girl babies' ears pierced for ear-
[304] rings, "because they don't feel it much then" (SM).

Father did not eat meat or salt until child's navel healed, else cord would rot; optional whether he hunted or fished (SM); many did not, for 2 weeks (MM, FP). Could, however, drink cold water. Did not sleep with wife for 2-4 months after child born.

853 Child was generally nursed whenever it cried; "some mothers slapped their babies when they cried all night, others nursed them" (MM). Nursing continued until child at least 2 yrs. old; LT's child
[862] of 4 frequently nursed, standing beside LT when
[841] latter seated. If mother became pregnant while child still nursing, latter weaned. Menstrual periods for woman usually recommenced about yr. after childbirth (FP).

854 Up to time when they could walk well, children
481 carried about in cradles (see section on Means of Transport).

842 Childless women took herb medicine to have children; FP's husband's stepfather, a Tejon Yokuts, prepared such for FP (see Autobiography
[845 of FP). Children born dead buried immediately;
754] parents not subject to meat taboo if this occurred; "not many babies died, unless a witch wanted to give their parents hard luck" (SM).

847 Abortion, infanticide.- Leaves of a "big tree"
824 (sp. ?) boiled and tea drunk by woman when she first knew she was pregnant if she wished to induce abortion; also women took medicine to prevent conception. Newborn infants "sometimes killed; one woman had a baby and killed it; she went off somewhere with her mother, so no one would know. They just buried the baby any place, like a dog; I don't see how they could do that. That woman was a witch" (FP).

845 Twins.- If person laughed about woman having twins (cono'), that person would also have twins. Twins treated well; if one treated badly, died, other would die too and give family bad luck, hence twins often accorded more consideration than other children. If mother of twins over-
[597] worked, unable to nurse both babies, relative might adopt one of them; ES, herself childless, had thus adopted her brother's son, one of pair of twims.

597 Orphans, illegitimate children.- Orphans, or
768 one of several children with one parent dead, other remarried, adopted by blood relatives. Observations (1930-1932) of 3 adopted children showed 2 treated indulgently, one as a menial.

848 Illegitimate child kept by mother, who lived with her family; father of child expected to bring meat to mother occasionally; if mother